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57. (Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid backbone includes the phosphate backbone modification on the 5' inter-nucleotide linkages.

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58. (Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid backbone includes the phosphate backbone modification on the 3' inter-nucleotide linkages.

Sub
D12

66. (Amended) A method for enhancing recovery of bone marrow in a subject undergoing or having undergone cancer therapy, comprising:

administering to a subject undergoing or having undergone cancer therapy which damages the bone marrow an effective amount for enhancing the recovery of bone marrow of an immunostimulatory nucleic acid, comprising :

5' X₁ X₂CGX₃ X₄ 3'

wherein C is unmethylated, wherein X₁X₂ and X₃X₄ are nucleotides.

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71. (Amended) In a method for stimulating an immune response in a subject having a cancer, the method of the type involving antigen dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC), the improvement comprising:

administering to the subject an immunostimulatory nucleic acid, comprising:

5' X₁ X₂CGX₃ X₄ 3'

wherein C is unmethylated, wherein X₁X₂ and X₃X₄ are nucleotides.

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72. (Amended) The method of claim 71, wherein at least one nucleotide has a phosphate backbone modification.

Please add the following new claims:

36. (New) A method for treating or preventing cancer, comprising:

administering to a subject having a cancer an effective amount for treating or preventing cancer of an immunostimulatory nucleic acid, comprising:



wherein C is unmethylated, wherein $X_1 X_2$ and $X_3 X_4$ are nucleotides, and wherein the sequence is not palindromic.

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27. (New) The method of claim *26*, further comprising administering a chemotherapeutic agent.

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28. (New) The method of claim *26*, further comprising administering a cancer immunotherapeutic agent.

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29. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is brain cancer.

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30. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is lung cancer.

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31. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is ovarian cancer.

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32. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

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33. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is prostate cancer.

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34. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is colon cancer.

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35. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is leukemia.

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36. (New) The method of claim *26*, wherein the cancer is carcinoma.

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87. (New) The method of claim *76*, wherein the cancer is sarcoma.

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88. (New) The method of claim *76*, wherein at least one nucleotide has a phosphate backbone modification.

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89. (New) The method of claim *76*, wherein the oligonucleotide has 8 to 100 nucleotides.

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90. (New) The method of claim *88*, wherein the phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.

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91. (New) The method of claim *90*, wherein the nucleic acid backbone includes the phosphate backbone modification on the 5' inter-nucleotide linkages.

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92. (New) The method of claim *90*, wherein the nucleic acid backbone includes the phosphate backbone modification on the 3' inter-nucleotide linkages.

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93. (New) The method of claim *76*, wherein X_1X_2 are nucleotides selected from the group consisting of: GpT, GpG, GpA, ApA, ApT, ApG, CpT, CpA, CpG, TpA, TpT, and TpG; and X_3X_4 are nucleotides selected from the group consisting of: TpT, CpT, ApT, TpG, ApG, CpG, TpC, ApC, CpC, TpA, ApA, and CpA.

54

94. (New) The method of claim *76*, wherein X_1X_2 are GpA and X_3X_4 are TpT.

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95. (New) The method of claim *76*, wherein X_1X_2 are both purines and X_3X_4 are both pyrimidines.